

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228.

## IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RUPERT LEWIS

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Rupert Lewis as he delivers the keynote speech at The PuLSE Institute Literary Circle Forum. Dr. Lewis's significant academic achievements are worthy of commendation.

Dr. Rupert Lewis is Professor Emeritus of Political Thought in the Department of Government at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica. He is a scholar of the Garvey movement and Caribbean radicalism in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and he holds years of experience lecturing political science, political thought in the Caribbean, and African and global politics. Currently, Dr. Lewis is a research fellow in the PJ Patterson Centre for Africa-Caribbean Advocacy at the UWI, working alongside Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson to strengthen the relationship between the Caribbean and Africa.

Dr. Lewis is recognized globally as a leading academic in political thought. He has published a host of essays and biographies that have propelled the academic discipline forward and have been formative in scholars' understanding of politics in the Caribbean. Beyond academics, Dr. Lewis is an activist for reparative justice and has earned the Order of Distinction, Commander class honor from the Government of Jamaica for his efforts. Dr. Lewis's selection to deliver the keynote speech underscores his wide expertise and exemplifies his commitment to enhancing awareness of the Caribbean's impacts on the global community. As the United States celebrates the election of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, the first Black woman of Jamaican descent to assume the vice presidency, Dr. Lewis will provide valuable insight of the Caribbean's many contributions to United States politics and how it continues to shape American political life today.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Rupert Lewis as he delivers the keynote speech at The PuLSE Institute Literary Circle Forum. Dr. Lewis's academic expertise continues to make a difference, and his testimony will enhance our community's understanding of the role the Caribbean has played within our own nation.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ZACHARY JACOB "ZAC" PLANTZ

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dedicated staff member and friend, Zachary Jacob "Zac" Plantz. His life was tragically taken in a car accident on November 26th at the age of 27. Zac was an incredibly gifted young man who had immeasurable potential and the ability to bring joy to others. He loved his family, served his community, and was passionate about helping people.

A Frankfort native and lifelong Chicago loyalist, Zac was a proud graduate of Providence Catholic High School and the University of Notre Dame where he played for the Fighting Irish rugby team. After college, Zac began his career as a successful consultant, but found a new sense of purpose in pursuing his true passion for public service. In 2018, Zac began his political career by coordinating a Chicago mayoral campaign for Jerry Joyce, Jr. Last year, I brought Zac into my campaign and quickly learned what a gifted young man he was. Before long, he became my Campaign Manager. After the campaign, Zac joined my congressional staff as a Senior Policy Advisor. During his time in my office, he demonstrated a great ability to bring people together and make a difference in the lives of constituents in Illinois's 3rd Congressional District. Zac's contagious energy and ability to lift people up was nothing short of remarkable.

Though Zac had many career accomplishments in his short life, he also demonstrated his exceptional character through charitable endeavors. For the past six years, Zac ran sixty miles in November to raise money for Movember, a charitable organization dedicated to improving men's mental health. His efforts through this organization will have a lasting impact on countless lives.

Zac was a friend to so many of us and I extend my heartfelt condolences to Zac's loving parents Ron and Laura, his siblings Logan, Tyler, and Abby, his longtime girlfriend Kathleen, and all of Zac's family and friends. While

his journey on Earth might be over, his legacy will live on in the advice he gave, the stories he told, and the people he brought together.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Zachary "Zac" Plantz. He was a man who lived his life for others and brought joy into the world. I know that Zac's passion and commitment to his family, friends, and community will have a lasting impact on all of us.

## TRIBUTE TO FORMER REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT FREEMAN "BOB" SMITH

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of former Representative Robert Freeman "Bob" Smith.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of my friend and former colleague and offer my deepest condolences to his friends and family.

I served with Bob in Congress for a decade. He spent his life serving Oregonians in various roles, including president of the Public Lands Council, and in the Oregon legislature as House Speaker and subsequently Senate Minority Leader. He dedicated his life to his community, his constituents, and all Oregonians.

Growing up in Burns, he worked as a rancher. His experiences provided a deep knowledge of the needs and concerns of rural Oregonians, and he was one of their fiercest advocates. Bob was also a man of principle. He retired from Congress in 1995, yet ran again in 1997 because his successor, a member of his own party, had lied about his military service, among many other problems. He won, and when he returned to Congress for what would be his last term, he was elected Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, placing him in a powerful role championing policies important to rural communities.

Make no mistake, Bob and I had policy disagreements, but we were always friends and worked together often. One of my fondest memories is when Bob and I worked alongside former Senator Mark Hatfield to designate the Newberry Crater as a Monument in order to protect the area from energy development. Though we came from different sides of the aisle, this designation effort was just one example of how we were able to come together as Oregonians to protect the people, resources, and great outdoors that make Oregon home. Bob is missed, but his life of service and inspiring legacy lives on.